metro®
WEEKEND NEW YORK
December 7-9, 2012

holidays

Santa Claus: In his own words

The big man talks belief, kids, reindeer, vacation and quite a bit about Macy's {page 12}

arts

Getting to know a 'Nutcracker'

Well, it's more like his hot date Sarah Lane is Clara in ABT's holiday classic {page 21}

Review: 'Playing for Keeps' {page 18}

HOLIDAY MUSIC: (ALMOST) ALL IS BRIGHT

There are a lot of great new yuletide tunes out there this season But there are also a few that could really stink up your stocking if you're not careful {page 10}

Doctor indicted after patient painkiller-related deaths

A doctor pleaded not guilty to manslaughter charges after prosecutors said he illegally prescribed dangerous painkillers, likely leading to at least two deaths.

Stan Xuhui Li was indicted Thursday on 219 counts after an investigation uncovered that he improperly gave at least 20 patients access to xycodone, hydrocodone, fentanyl and Xanax at his Flushing clinic, the Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor said. Li would see as many as 100 patients a day as people lined up on the sidewalk of his clinic on weekends and paid for their visits in cash, officials charged.

Seven of Li's patients died of prescription drug overdoses between January 2009 and December 2011, prosecutors said. He faces charges in two of those deaths. Li is accused of selling prescriptions for the potentially dangerous drugs without conducting proper patient exams or considering alternative treatments.

In one instance, prosecutors said a patient received 15 prescriptions for controlled substances from Li within three months of his overdose death.

Officials said Li ignored signs of addiction in his patients and continued to give them access to prescriptions, even after other doctors or patients' family members told him of nonfatal overdoses.

"Dr. Li preyed on the community by supplying patients with illegal narcotics for cash," Tom O'Donnell of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services said. "In essence, the government believes he was little more than a glorified drug dealer."

CASSANDRA GARRISON
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Defrauding charges

Li is also accused of defrauding Medicare and Empire BlueCross BlueShield, and trying to dodge an investigation by the New York State Health Department's Office of Professional Medical Conduct.

Li's charges include manslaughter, reckless endangerment and criminal sale of a prescription for a controlled substance.

▶ Stan Xuhui Li

$200
Patients paid as much as about $200 to meet with the doctor, officials say.

Quoted

"Dr. Li preyed on the community by supplying patients with illegal narcotics for cash. In essence, the government believes he was little more than a glorified drug dealer." O'DONNELL

In the news

NYPD

Police search for iPhone robber

DUMBO. Cops are looking for a man that they say robbed a man at an F train station. According to police, on Nov. 21 around 9:45 p.m., a man approached the 35-year-old victim at the York Street subway station. Then, the robber took the man's iPhone from his hand and fled. Brooklyn Transit Robbery Squad detectives are looking for the thief, described as male, black, 25 to 35, 6-foot-1, 180 to 190 pounds and wearing a red coat and dark-colored pants. METRO/AB

Scalping for Sandy concert

NEW YORK. Sen. Charles Schumer criticized ticket scalping for a Hurricane Sandy benefit. The concert, which is Dec. 12 at Madison Square Garden, sold tickets between $150 and $2,500, according to the Daily News, but they are now being sold online for as much as $60,000. "I find it appalling that scalpers are trying to profit," Schumer said. He demanded the websites where tickets are sold stop offering the tickets for above face value. METRO/AB

Mom who lost daughters 'OK'

CONNECTICUT. The mother who lost all three daughters, along with her parents, in a Christmas Day fire last year told the "Today" show she is doing "really well." Madonna Badger's family was killed in a fire in her Connecticut home. "I'm shocked that I'm doing OK, but I'm doing really well," she said in the interview. For this Christmas, she said, she will be in "Santa Claus-free" Thailand, she said, in a girls' orphanage. METRO/AB

In the news

Medical marijuana begins in NJ

The first medical marijuana outpost opened in New Jersey Thursday. According to the Associated Press, Greenleaf Compassion Center in Montclair, N.J., opened Thursday and will serve 20 clients each day by appointment. The law was passed three years ago, and it is intended for people suffering from pain conditions that result from serious illnesses, like cancer. METRO/AB

In the news

Baldwin arrested on tax charges

A Baldwin is in trouble. Actor Stephen Baldwin reportedly was arrested Thursday on tax evasion charges. The Rockland County District Attorney's office said he did not pay three years of state income tax, more than $350,000. He faces up to four years in prison. METRO/AB

Sky. Walkway

▶ This is the beginning of a foot path in Brooklyn.

ALEXA HOYER

A new way to get around in Brooklyn

A new pedestrian bridge will join Brooklyn Bridge Park with the Brooklyn Heights neighborhood, city officials said Thursday. The planned foot bridge will start at Squibb Park, a playground in Brooklyn Heights, and go all the way to Brooklyn Bridge Park's Pier 1, with planned sweeping views of the skyline along the way. Only walkers will be allowed, however – even cyclists cannot zoom through, although they can walk their bikes. Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz showed the construction progress yesterday. METRO/AB

News in brief

NY activist dies from cancer

NEW YORK. A community activist whose daughter was killed by a falling tree during Hurricane Sandy died of cancer. Jon Kest, 57, was head of New York Communities for Change. He had reportedly been fighting a rare kind of cancer. His daughter, Jessie Streich-Kest, was a Bushwick teacher who was killed while walking her dog. NYCC board of directors chair Marie Pierre said in a statement Thursday, "Jon was a leader, a mentor, a friend and, above all, the person whose belief in our ability to create change moved us, day in and day out, to fight for the issues facing our community." METRO/AB

Quoted

"Our hearts go out to Jon's wife Fran, their son Jake and the entire Kest family." PIERRE

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In the news

$400M in damage for NJ Transit

NEW JERSEY. New Jersey Transit sustained $400 million in damage from Hurricane Sandy and needs twice that amount to prevent damage from future storms, its executive director told a U.S. Senate panel Thursday. The losses included $100 million in train cars, locomotives and equipment, James Weinstein said in written testimony to the Commerce Committee's surface transportation subcommittee. It was the most detailed estimate provided of the system's costs from the storm.

"The storm did unprecedented damage to our transportation system," Sen. Frank Lautenberg, a New Jersey Democrat, said at the hearing. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie was in Washington as well to press for federal aid to help the state recover from the storm, and met with President Barack Obama and White House officials.

The Republican governor's trip comes three days after New York's Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo traveled to Washington to ask for $42 billion in aid. **REUTERS**

"The storm did unprecedented damage to our transportation system."
LAUTENBERG

Secret Santa sneaks in to give to kids after Sandy

It's the season to give back, and after Superstorm Sandy hit in October, New Yorkers could use the help.

After witnessing the devastation in parts of New York, Joy Huang wanted to help her city get back on its feet.

Huang, a television producer, along with her friend Kimberley Berdy, created SecretSandy.org to help kids who lost everything in the storm rebuild their toy collection.

Huang was inspired by the generosity she witnessed in the Rockaways after the storm.

"It was incredible to see the amount of diapers, wipes and other supplies that were donated," she said. "This was all great, but the holidays are around the corner."

The website features a letter families affected by the storm can fill out that asks some basic questions, but also asks what the children saw during the storm and how they felt.

"Some kids will just write, 'I hope for a new bike.' Others, though, will write, 'I hope I know what normal feels like again,' or 'I hope that I have hot water again,'" Huang said.

Donors can sign up to be paired with a family and view their wish list. Each donor decides how many items from the list to purchase. The gifts are shipped directly to the kids.

▶ Skylar, 4, received a magic set from his Secret Sandy.

Quoted

"Some kids will just write, 'I hope for a new bike.' Others, though, will write, 'I hope I know what normal feels like again.'" **HUANG**

How to help

Log on to SecretSandy.org to find a child's request.

- Huang asks that all letters asking for gifts be submitted by Dec. 15.
- After the holidays come and go, Huang hopes to continue the project to collect supplies for schools that were damaged by Sandy.
- "There is so much that needs to be done. Why stop now?" she said.

"Somebody is getting their Legos back," Huang said. "Somebody is getting their scooter back."

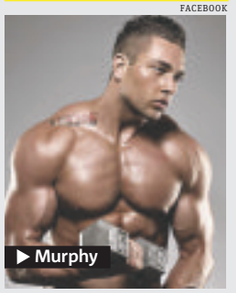
After a tweet of support from Chelsea Clinton, interest in Secret Sandy skyrocketed. As of this week, Secret Sandy has received about 600 letters and more than 1,600 donors.

"The spirit of giving is alive and well," Huang said.

MARY ANN GEORGANTOPOULOS

Model fight turned ugly?

FACEBOOK



▶ Murphy

Trial opens for firefighter charged in violent attack

Taylor Murphy, 29, is on trial for charges that he violently attacked his girlfriend, Claudia Charriez, a transgender model known for her appearance as a contestant on reality series "American's Next Top Model."

Murphy, who appeared as "Mr. March" in a calendar featuring New York firefighters, is accused of shoving Charriez into a phone booth and choking her outside a Midtown strip club on the night of Aug. 6, 2011.

Opening statements in the trial began Thursday.

Murphy, whose Model Mayhem profile lists him as 6 feet 4 inches and 220 pounds, continues to pursue a career in modeling after his appearance in the 2011 NYC Firefighters Calendar, the unofficial calendar of the New York City Fire Department.

Charriez was disqualified in the semifinal round of "ANTM" in 2006 after it was revealed that she was born a man. **CASSANDRA GARRISON**

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Taylor faces three charges: assault, criminal mischief and criminal obstruction of breathing or blood circulation.

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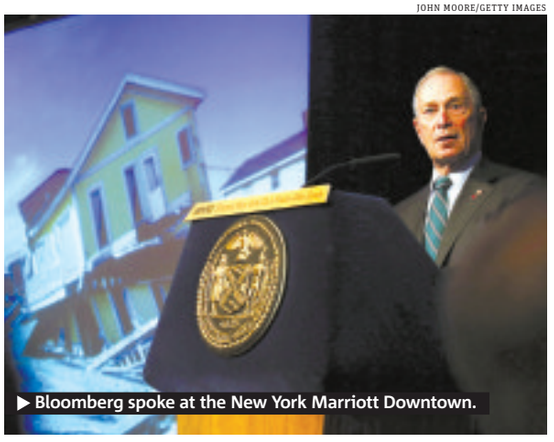
Bloomberg vows to keep building on waterfronts

JOHN MOORE/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Bloomberg spoke at the New York Marriott Downtown.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg vowed to keep building on the waterfronts yesterday during a speech about protecting New York against future storms.

"Let me be clear," he said. "We are not going to abandon the waterfront."

Speaking downtown, he said the post-Sandy question he received the most was whether people could rebuild homes in neighborhoods like Breezy Point and Midland Beach.

The answer, he said, was yes.

"We are not going to leave the Rockaways or Coney Island or Staten Island's South Shore," he said. "But we can't just rebuild what was there and hope for the best."

He said the city would take a second look at all waterfront infrastructure.

Deputy Mayors Cas Holloway and Linda Gibbs will review the city's preparedness and recovery, zeroing in on how resources and services were deployed, and provide a report in February to be made public.

Seth Pinsky, president of the Economic Development Corporation, Bloomberg added, will craft new community plans, from rebuilding schools to how parks or cultural spaces like the New York Aquarium are created.

"We may or may not see another storm like Sandy in our lifetimes, but I don't think it's fair to say that we should leave it to our children to prepare for the possibility," Bloomberg said.

200
Homes destroyed beyond repair

500
Homes with major structural damage

ALISON BOWEN
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In the news

NYCLU files suit against prison

NEW YORK. The New York Civil Liberties Union filed a federal lawsuit Thursday against state corrections officials on behalf of a convicted rapist who spent 26 months in solitary confinement after a non-violent offense in his cell. The lawsuit is the latest challenge to standards by which some 80,000 inmates a day are confined up to 23 hours a day in isolation or with another inmate inside cells as small as a parking spot. Critics claim solitary confinement is a form of torture that inflicts lasting psychological damage and is meted out too often. New York prison officials declined to comment on the lawsuit but have said in the past it is sometimes necessary to remove inmates from the rest of the prison population. The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Manhattan, asserts that Leroy Peoples was placed in solitary confinement for nearly 26 months after jail guards discovered forged legal documents in his cell. Peoples, 30, was sentenced to 16 years in prison after pleading guilty in 2005 to raping two women at gunpoint in Queens, New York, according to prosecutors. Between 2007 and 2011, New York State prison officials segregated inmates 302 times for "smoking in an undesignated area," 135 times for "wasting food," 114 times for "littering" and 234 times for "untidy cell or person," according to a recent NYCLU study of state prison segregation records. A spokesman for the New York State Department of Corrections said the agency doesn't comment on ongoing litigation. **REUTERS**

▶ Mock cell from NYCLU

Man accused of export violation

NEW YORK. A man was arrested and charged with exporting goods restricted by the U.S. government the day after prosecutors announced charges against three other people for illegally sending carbon fiber to Iran and China. Mark Henry was arrested at his home in Queens on Thursday without incident by agents of the FBI. **BLOOMBERG**

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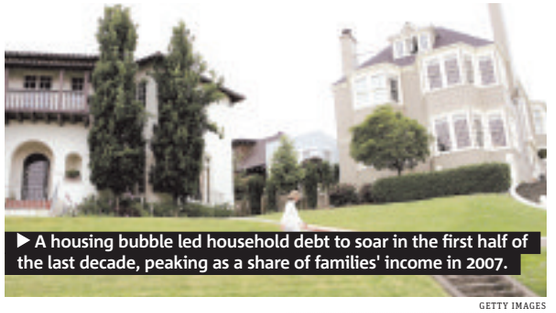
US household wealth reaches 2007's high



▶ A housing bubble led household debt to soar in the first half of the last decade, peaking as a share of families' income in 2007.

GETTY IMAGES

The net wealth of U.S. households rose in the third quarter to its highest since late 2007, providing a hopeful sign for future consumer spending.

Net financial wealth grew $1.72 trillion to $64.77 trillion, the Federal Reserve said on Thursday.

That left household wealth $1.2 trillion short of where it stood in the fourth quarter of 2007, just as the economy was sinking into a severe recession. Wealth peaked at $67.3 trillion in the third quarter of that year.

Rising home prices helped drive the increase in the latest quarter. The value of real estate owned by households rose about $300 billion, the Fed said. Stock holdings climbed by about $520 billion.

Increases in wealth could make consumers feel more comfortable spending their money. Many economists think consumers spend a few cents of every dollar they gain.

$300B

Rising home prices helped drive the increase in the latest quarter. The value of real estate owned by households rose about $300 billion, the Fed said.

The data, part of the Fed's quarterly Flow of Funds report, also showed Americans continued their four-year effort to shed debt.

Households cut debt at a 2 percent annual rate in the third quarter, the steepest drop since the second quarter of 2011.

Household debt fell $65.5 billion to $12.87 trillion, reversing a small gain logged over the prior three quarters — a possible sign that households still feel they need to cut debt.

REUTERS

In the news

Therapist declined confinement for Aurora shooter

DENVER. A psychiatrist who treated accused Colorado theater gunman James Holmes rejected a law enforcement offer to involuntarily confine him for 72 hours after he told her six weeks before the shooting that he fantasized about killing "a lot of people," the Denver Post reported yesterday.

Citing an unnamed source, the newspaper said that Holmes made the remark to his therapist, Lynne Fenton, on June 11. But when a University of Colorado police officer asked whether to detain Holmes on a psychiatric hold, Fenton said no.

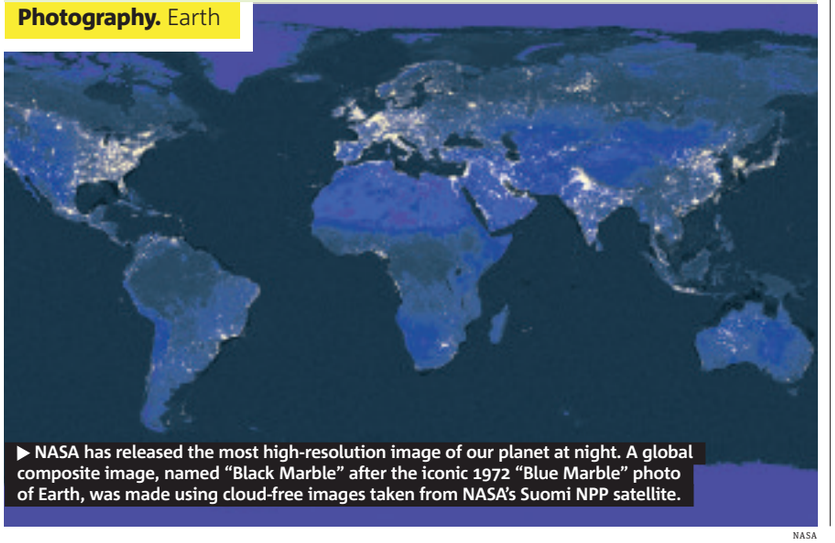
A psychiatric hold is usually involuntary hospitalization for mental health evaluation.

REUTERS

▶ Holmes

GETTY IMAGES

Photography. Earth



▶ NASA has released the most high-resolution image of our planet at night. A global composite image, named "Black Marble" after the iconic 1972 "Blue Marble" photo of Earth, was made using cloud-free images taken from NASA's Suomi NPP satellite.

NASA

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▶ All the gifts purchased will be sent directly to Metro's office. It's the third year of Metro Magic, where we ask our readers to go online to buy toys for underprivileged children. METRO

Shares of Apple continue to drop

GETTY IMAGES

▶ The Samsung Galaxy tablet has given the iPad competition.

Apple's market capitalization fell below $500 billion on Thursday as shares of the world's most valuable listed company continued to slide after suffering its worst one-day decline in nearly four years.

Shares of Apple Inc. fell to as low as $518.63 on Thursday, declining nearly 10 percent for the week. But for the year, the stock is still up more than 30 percent. At its peak in September the stock was worth $705.07.

Earlier in the day, research firm IDC said Apple's rank in China's smartphone market, which is set to become the world's largest this year, fell to No.6 in the third quarter as it faced tough competition from Chinese brands.

IDC's announcement comes a day after Apple's shares fell more than 6 percent on the Nasdaq, logging its biggest single-day loss in four years and losing $35 billion of its value, on concerns about rivals gaining ground in the mobile devices market.

Apple's shares, once among the most desirable of portfolio holdings, have headed steadily lower since September on growing uncertainty about the company's ability to fend off unprecedented competition. This year saw a surge in sales of Amazon's cheaper Kindle Fire and Microsoft's first foray into the tablet market with its Surface.

Meanwhile, Samsung continues to chip away at the iPad's dominance with its Galaxy line.

The assault on Apple's consumer-electronics home turf presents a stiff challenge for CEO Tim Cook, who was elevated shortly before the death of Steve Jobs and is now charged with keeping the technology company humming. REUTERS

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John 4:8

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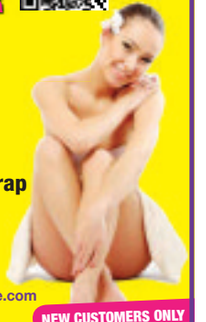

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WEEKEND

Do you hear what we hear?

As usual, this year's holiday releases are a mixed bag ◐ Definitely take a ride on a 'Christmas Unicorn,' but stay away from the 'Grease' duo ◐ Metro helps you sort the naughty from the nice

Grinch review

'This Christmas'

John Travolta and Olivia Newton John

If this collection came out in 1980 then *maybe* there would be a reason for it to exist, but in 2012 there's no need for these 13 tracks, most of which are standards, with the exception of an original that's being touted as a sequel to "You're The One That I Want." The song is called, "I Think You Might Like It." Spoiler alert: You won't. Sure, they had chemistry in "Grease," but that was in 1978. The forced smiles while sipping cocoa on the cover shows what kind of chemistry they have now. We don't like to be Grinch-y, but this is the sonic equivalent of reindeer poop.

'A Different Kind of Christmas'

Various artists

Naughty: You're probably not familiar with many of the artists on these 23 tracks. Audio Stepchild? Renzo Charlez? Freshwadda Brooks? Have all of these great hip-hop artists been hiding on the North Pole until now?
Nice: This comp comes courtesy of Hoopla Worldwide/LRT/ INgrooves Fontana, all imprints we had also never heard of before now. But some of the participants have affiliations with Parliament Funkadelic and Nappy Roots. The beats here mostly have a G-Funk feel with little samples of carols thrown in and the rhymes are super positive. Check out 1st Blood and Buffalo Stille's "Some Kentucky Bourbon on Christmas Eve" and Da Product and J Bill's "It Seems Like We Forgot" for some of the most festive holiday hip-hop since Run DMC's "Christmas in Hollis."

'Isn't This World Enough??'

Various Artists

Naughty: The problem with this post-record industry climate is that there aren't enough Scroogey label CEOs to say, "Yer holiday song stinks!" Therefore, this 14-song comp from the Nettwerk Music Group has a few stinkers from Ash Koley and Jay Brannan. Bah humbug!
Nice: The title track, by the Scottish six-piece Admiral Fallow might not be the most obvious holiday song (sample lyric: "You don't need to hang your hat on belief in bumper stickers") but there's something classic about it that makes it malleable, the way that "Put a Little Love In Your Heart" kind of became a holiday staple after it was used in "Scrooged." Also worth noting: This comp kicks off with a rockin' Fun. tune!

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Admiral Fallow

DENNY RENSHAW

▶ Sufjan Stevens brings his Christmas sing-along to The Bowery Ballroom on Dec. 21 and 22.

'Silver & Gold: Songs for Christmas, Vols. 6-10'

Sufjan Stevens

Naughty: Is Sufjan Stevens trying to take up *all* our free time this season? Sure, this is a gorgeous collection of 58 holiday-ish tracks (we say "ish" because how is Prince's "Alphabet Street" a holiday song?) But keep in mind that Stevens recorded these songs over six years. Listeners may want to pace themselves too.
Nice: There are a few songs on here that are the sonic equivalent of sugar plums dancing in your head. Draw the curtains, plug in your tree and zone out to the beautifully textured 10-minute plus opuses "Christmas Unicorn" and "The Child with the Star on His Head."

'Cheers, It's Christmas'

Blake Shelton

Naughty: His role as a coach on "The Voice" has earned Blake Shelton a new base of fans who wouldn't ordinarily like his brand of country music. That said, if you don't ordinarily like his brand of country music, you won't like this album.
Nice: Shelton is such a likable personality that this is highly tolerable stuff. Plus, he handpicked some of the most likable sidekicks to guide his sleigh, like Reba, Kelly Clarkson, his wife Miranda Lambert and the king of palatable Christmas charisma, Michael Buble, who co-wrote one of the songs here. Basically, the cover pic of Shelton in front of the fireplace says it all: It's old-fashioned, steeped in tradition, comfortable and not exactly cool.

Best of the rest

"Holidays Rule" *Various*
Naughty: Speaking of compilations that start with a song by Fun., the "We Are Young" trio have spread themselves too thin for the holidays. With their track, they take a "Sleigh Ride" down Broadway and make an ill-advised turn into '80s territory. Rufus Wainwright and Sharon Van Etten also deserve a lump of coal for their empty version of "Baby, It's Cold Outside."
Nice: This one delivers the most bang for your buck. The Shins run McCartney's "Wonderful Christmastime" through a Beach Boys filter and turn it into something great. McCartney himself is on here too. Other great performances include Calexico, Eleanor Friedberger and Andrew Bird.

"Merry Christmas, Baby" *Rod Stewart*
Naughty: Stewart exhumes the voice of Ella Fitzgerald for a duet of "What Are You Doing New Year's Eve"? Let's just hope there is no "live" performance, a la Virtual 2Pac.
Nice: Rod's light rock swing is actually contagious, and you may find yourself saying, "Hey, play that again!" about the original song that Stewart co-wrote, "Red-Suited Super Man." Then you'll realize what you just said and lie that you were just kidding. Cee-Lo, Mary J. Blige, Buble and Trombone Shorty also turn in notable cameos.

'Sounds of the Holidays Vol. One'

The Polyphonic Spree
Naughty: The Polyphonic Spree are known for featuring upward of 20 members, but leader Tim DeLaughter doesn't quite maximize the potential of all of his choral worker elves here.
Nice: Though many of these 13 tracks are familiar songs, the Spree drastically reimagine many of them to great effect. "Silver Bells," featuring School of the Seven Bells, is a dreamy seven-minute symphony that captures the exhausting wonder of the season through the sleepy eyes of a child.

JIM DYSON/REDFERNS/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Tim DeLaughter preaches to the choir.

PAT HEALY
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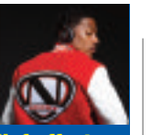

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A chat with the big man himself

The one and only Santa Claus discusses Christmas from his point of view You can't have his reindeer!

Santa Claus is coming to town! Oops, scratch that, he's already here taking up temporary residence at Macy's Santaland in Herald Square. We were elated to spend some time with the most famous citizen of the North Pole, even though it seemed like he really wanted to talk more about his new digs.

Santa, it's so nice to speak with you today.
I send my warmest regards to you and your readers. This is the season to believe! One of the most wonderful things about New York is that everyone knows if you want to see Santa, where do you go? To Macy's!

We're all very excited. So: What type of cookies should we leave out for you on Christmas Eve?
I like two types of cookies: chocolate chip and Christmas cookies. Just leave me one or two because I can't eat too many. … And I really love whole milk. I'm traditional.

You're so busy on Christmas Eve, but what do you like to do when you're not working?
Oh, well, I love to keep in touch with all the children, as many as I can, because I think that children need to know that Santa doesn't disappear. I'm always available. I'm always visiting. I come to New York and the city to check on the toys, because I like to know what the children are thinking.

But don't people recognize you?
I'm naturally not wearing my red suit, but I'm in the subway. And I always know how many days it is until Christmas.

A lot of people don't believe in you. What do you say to them?
Oh, well, that's a very delicate issue. I visit many families here at Macy's, and sometimes when the children come, you can tell that there's a little child who believes and the older brother and sister is there, kind of like, "Oh well, I gotta be here." You know what I always do? I always take a special moment and I call that older child over to me, and look them straight in the eye and say, from my heart, that it's all right if you don't believe in Santa, but Santa will always believe in you.

When do you start preparing for Christmas?
It never stops, because we know it takes so much effort. … When you're doing something like that, it's not work, it's a labor of love.

What's one present kids are always asking for?
Many children want a reindeer for a present. … But I always tell the children they can't have a reindeer because the reindeer have to stay with Santa at the North Pole because that's the only place where the magic oats grow that get them to fly.

What do you like to do the day after Christmas?
I relax, and I always feel it's very important to show gratitude. I always spend a lot of time with the reindeer.

What is your favorite Christmas song and movie?
Santa loves to sing, we sing all the time, but I must be honest with you that my favorite Christmas film is "Miracle on 34th Street." I met Maureen O'Hara here at Macy's and it was so lovely. … And I think my favorite Christmas song must be "Jingle Bells." You're excited and those bells are ringing — how can you not smile? Those types of moments you never forget.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Santa Claus, shown here at this year's Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, will be at Macy's Santaland (151 W. 34th St., 212-695-4400) through Dec. 24.

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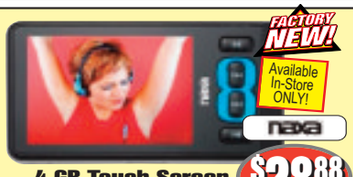

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▶ The Holiday Market at Union Square will feature a "Little Brooklyn" area offering local, handmade goods from the borough.

Grand Central Holiday Fair
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Grand Central Terminal's annual Fair returns with 76 vendors, 18 of which are new.

Holiday Market at Union Square
Through Dec. 24, intersection of Park Avenue South, Broadway, 14th Street and Union Square West
At the 18th annual fair, carolers will sing as you shop under the red and white tents. If all that shopping works up an appetite, you're in luck: Momofuku Milk Bar and Sigmund's Pretzels are just two of the purveyors there. Be sure to visit the Consumer Reports booth to taste-test hot cocoa and try out the newest tablets on the market.

Columbus Circle Holiday Market
Through Dec. 24, 10 Columbus Circle
The sister market of the Union Square Holiday Market carries everything from fine art to children's clothes.

The Holiday Shops at Bryant Park
Through Jan. 6, 41 W. 40th St.
After you skate at the admission-free rink, step inside the shops for dazzling gems, fuzzy hats, Christmas trinkets and foodie fare like donuts, cider and Max Brenner chocolates.

Gifted Holiday Market
Through Dec. 23, Skylight One Hanson, 1 Hanson Pl., Brooklyn
The people behind the Brooklyn Flea have wrangled more than 100 vendors on three floors to sell handmade, vintage and foodie gifts. Every weekend leading up to Christmas, they'll stay open an extra hour.

Astoria Market
Dec. 15, 16, 22 and 23, Bohemian Hall Beer Garden, 29-29 24th Ave., Astoria
Head to the famous Queens beer garden (yes, it's open in the winter) for crafts, Christmas decorations and vintage items.

Jingle at Chelsea Market
Dec. 14-23, 75 Ninth Ave.
It's not just food for sale at the Chelsea Market this time of year (though there is plenty of that to go around). About 20 companies are offering their goods, like Junk Lab, which turns discarded items into newly functioning pieces for the home.

MEREDITH ENGEL
meredith.engel@metro.us

For a limited time only

Hit these holiday pop-up shops before they disappear:

2(X)IST
Through Dec. 24
1411 Broadway
The men's underwear label will feature pieces from its holiday collection as well as a "Greatest Hits" selection and a sneak peek of the new "WATCH" line. The store will donate 100 percent of profits to the Red Cross to aid Hurricane Sandy victims.

KKi at Rudy's Barbershop
Through Dec. 15
14 W. 29th St.
The nonprofit label that works with impoverished women to create crochet works will showcase its latest collection.

Dannijo
Through Dec. 31, 27 Prince St.
Get some holiday accessory tips from the Dannijo sisters at their first ever pop-up. In stock are signature designs, exclusive pieces, a selection of vintage jewelry and some Parisian clothing.

SARA JAYE WEISS

▶ Dannijo

Horses Cut Shop at treasure&bond
Through Dec. 26
350 W. Broadway
The T-shirt store will be made into a motel-like atmosphere, with a buffalo head chandelier, a bed and a vintage Ford pickup.

Warby Parker Annex
Through Jan. 31, 819 Washington St.
Treat yourself to a new pair of vintage-inspired specs.

Santa's Quirk Shop
Dec. 14-16, Corner of Broadway and Prince St.
Visit this eccentric pop-up to find gifts that are anything but ordinary. OLIVIA MORROW

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SEPHORA

Little foods, big holiday fun

During the holidays, our stomachs tend to get bigger so why not make the food you eat a little bit smaller? That's the idea behind two new recipe books, "Mini Treats & Hand-Held Sweets" by Abigail Johnson Dodge and "Tiny Food Party! Bite-Size Recipes for Miniature Meals" by Teri Lyn Fisher and Jenny Park.

As Dodge sums it up, serving tiny food is ideal for any harried host or hostesses (or to give as a gift).

"Mini treats are easy to make, easy to serve and even easier to eat — no forks, no spoons are necessary," she notes.

Fisher and Park agree: "Small bites are a great way to keep guests up and about and mingling with one another in a way that's more relaxing than a

sit-down dinner party," the authors note via e-mail. "It also allows for a greater variety of food, which people seem to appreciate, especially around the holidays."

DOROTHY ROBINSON
dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Dos and don'ts for your next holiday party

Do

- Get as much done beforehand. This way you can spend time tending to your guests and enjoying yourself, instead of in the kitchen rushing to finish.
- Make sure you have a variety of items to ensure everyone has ample things to eat and drink.

Don't

- Be a lush at your own party. While sipping on a cocktail or two to loosen up is great, no one wants a sloppy host/hostess!

from Fisher and Park

Weekend recipe

Lil' Hostess Cupcakes

Makes: 48
Here's a fun take on the iconic (lamented?) American dessert, from "Tiny Food Party!"

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- ⅔ cup cake flour
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- ½ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ¾ teaspoon salt
- 1¼ cups buttermilk (regular or low fat)
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- ½ cup strong brewed coffee
- ⅔ cup semisweet chocolate, melted
- 1½ teaspoons apple cider vinegar
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

FILLING

- 1 cup Marshmallow Fluff

GANACHE

- ½ cup heavy cream
- ½ cup semisweet chocolate chips

ROYAL ICING

- 1 egg white
- 1¼ cups powered sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla icing

As you mix the icing, add up to an extra 1/2 cup of powdered sugar to stiffen it to make it easier to pipe.

INSTRUCTIONS

1 Preheat oven to 350°F. Place all the ingredients for the cupcake batter into a large mixing bowl and whisk together until fully combined. Line a mini cupcake tin with liners and fill each about two-thirds full.

2 Bake for 15 to 20 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool completely in the pan. Carefully remove cupcakes from liners and discard, if desired.

3 Scoop Marshmallow Fluff into a piping bag fitted with a small round tip. Pierce bottoms of cupcakes with the piping tip and fill each with about 1 teaspoon of Fluff.

4 To make the ganache, pour cream into a small saucepan and bring to a simmer over medium-low heat. Place chocolate chips in a medium heatproof bowl. Pour cream over top and let sit for two minutes. Gently stir melted chocolate and cream together with a wooden spoon until full incorporated. Let cool for three to five minutes. Dip tops of each cupcake in ganache, shaking off excess. Let the ganache set, about 30 minutes.

5 Load royal icing into a piping bag fitted with a small round tip and pipe a small row of loops across each cupcake. Let set five to 10 minutes before serving.

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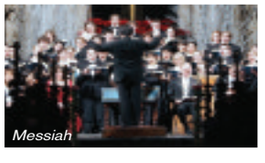
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Handel's *Messiah* **Dec 18–22**
Gary Thor Wedow conductor
Layla Claire soprano, **Tim Mead** countertenor, **Kenneth Tarver** tenor, **Alastair Miles** bass,
New York Choral Artists,
Joseph Flummerfelt director
nyphil.org/messiah
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Presented by the **Robert Hekemian Family Foundation**.

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For Group Sales: 212 875 5672 or groups@nyphil.org

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RALLY FOR TIBET
Monday, Dec 10 @ United Nations

10am: Chinese Consulate (42nd St & 12th Ave)
1pm: UN Dag Hammerskjold Plaza (47th St & 1st Ave)

SOLIDARITY WITH TIBET
10 DEC 2012

JOIN thousands of Tibetans and their supporters from across North America as they gather in front of the United Nations on December 10, 2012 to observe Global Solidarity Day for Tibet. The event marks the conclusion of the Flame of Truth rally initiated by the Tibetan parliament-in-exile since July 6, 2012.

BACKGROUND: China's illegal occupation of Tibet and its oppressive policies, restricting freedoms and basic human rights, have intensified Tibetan grievances and exacerbated the resentment felt across Tibet. To date, there have been at least 92 confirmed self-immolation protests in Tibet, of which 79 have taken place since January 2012 and 28 in November 2012 alone. Those who have self-immolated have called for freedom and the return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Tibet.

PETITION: On Dec 10, Tibetans and their supporters will also submit a public petition, signed globally by more than three hundred thousand people, to the representatives of the United Nations.

Issued by the Tibetan Community of North America Visit: www.solidaritywithtibet.org

Indie spotlight

'Deadfall'

See Olivia Wilde and Eric Bana in this thriller that follows a brother and sister who flee a casino robbery gone wrong but are forced to separate during a blizzard. They are later reunited under strange circumstances, which forces them to test their relationship.

'Lay The Favorite'

This romantic comedy starring Catherine Zeta-Jones, Vince Vaughn and Bruce Willis centers on a young woman's experience in the world of sports gambling.

'Hyde Park on Hudson'

Bill Murray take on Franklin D. Roosevelt in this lighthearted drama that explores the relationship between Roosevelt and his distant cousin, Margaret Stuckley, during the King and Queen of England's visit to New York in 1939.

OLIVIA MORROW

NICOLA DOVE

▶ Bill Murray stars as Franklin D. Roosevelt in "Hyde Park on Hudson."

'Keeps' is tired but true

◗ No one expects a rom-com to break the mold, and 'Playing for Keeps' certainly doesn't do anything special ◗ But fans of the genre won't care

'Playing for Keeps'
Director: Gabriele Muccino
Cast: Gerard Butler, Jessica Biel, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Uma Thurman, Dennis Quaid
Rating: PG-13
Grade: ❶❷❸❹❺

For rom-com fans, "Playing for Keeps," might feel like a case of deja vu. Like most movies of this genre, the storyline feels all too familiar, as do the stereotypical characters. The main problem with this film is the fact that it doesn't succeed as a romance or a comedy. The script has only a few witty lines, and just when the story builds to a climax, it lacks emotion and turns in a completely different direction.

The plot follows a retired soccer star (Butler) who is trying to get his life back on track when he is asked to coach his young son's soccer team. Yet he soon becomes popular among the recently divorced or unhappily married moms, which disrupts his plans. The second half of "Playing for Keeps" is certainly more engaging than the first; you begin to invest yourself in the story and the characters, despite the predictable "twists."

The film has a strong cast who have all been in their fair share of both good and bad romantic comedies, but the best performance comes from Biel, who plays a convincing mother trying to provide a good life for son while battling her nostalgic feelings for the past. Aside from its flaws, "Playing for Keeps" is an enjoyable popcorn flick that doesn't try to be more than it is.

DALE ROBINETTE

▶ Jessica Biel, Noah Lomax and Gerard Butler star in "Playing for Keeps."

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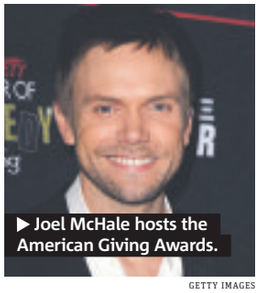
TV watch list



▶ Joel McHale hosts the American Giving Awards.

GETTY IMAGES

The American Giving Awards

AWARDS. Joel McHale hosts this shocking twist on the awards show: Instead of drooling over one another, stars get in the holiday spirit and pay tribute to community leaders and charities. That's refreshing, but it pretty much kills the chance of red-carpet bling. **Saturday, 8 p.m., NBC**

'White House Christmas 2012'

SPECIAL. Think you untangled a lot of lights this year? This tour of the White House gives a behind-the-scenes look at what it takes to deck the first family's halls. **Saturday, 8 p.m., HGTV**

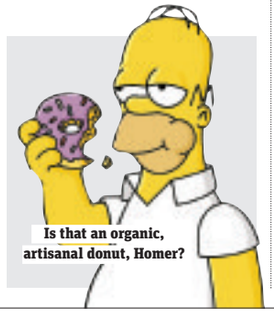
'The Mentalist'

DRAMA. When investigating a suspiciously popular botanist's murder, the CSI team discovers a tie to the medical-marijuana industry. **Sunday, 10 p.m., CBS**

'The Simpsons'

COMEDY. Springfield meets Portlandia when Homer starts hanging out with his new hipster neighbors from Oregon. **Sunday, 8 p.m., FOX**

MONICA WEYMOUTH



In the news

Male artists lead 2013 Grammy nominations

Male artists led the nominations announced on Wednesday for the 2013 Grammys, as fun., Frank Ocean, Mumford & Sons, Jay-Z, Kanye West and Dan Auerbach from the Black Keys landed six nods each for music's biggest awards.

The nominations for New York-based indie-pop band fun. — made up of Nate Ruess, Andrew Dost and Jack Antonoff — included the four main categories for Record, Song and Album of the Year, as well as Best New Artist.

Fun. said it felt good to be recognized and "took pride" in its live performances.

"Tonight, all I wanted to do was get up and really give it our all. ... Receiving the nomination is amazing and a culmination of hard work the three of us have put into this band," lead singer Ruess told reporters backstage.

REUTERS

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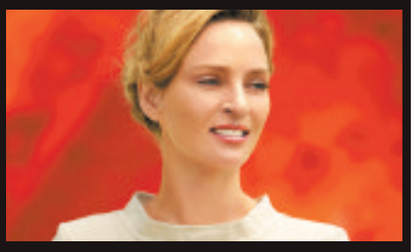
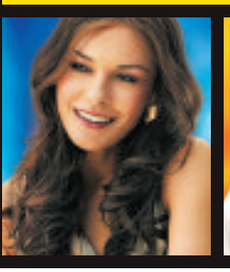
"'Playing for Keeps' will warm your heart and make you fall in love again and again. Gerard Butler is one of the sexiest romantic leading men in Hollywood."
– Maria Salas, WFUN-TV



Gerard BUTLER
Jessica BIEL
Uma THURMAN
Catherine with ZETA-JONES
Dennis and QUAID

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS



PLAYING for KEEPS

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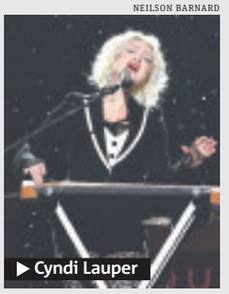
Around town

'Dead Accounts'
Through Feb. 24,
Music Box Theatre,
249 W. 45th St.
From $67, 212-560-2165
www.deadaccountson broadway.com
See Katie Holmes' return to Broadway in this dark comedy from Tony-winning director Jack O'Brien and playwright Theresa Rebeck. It's about the unexpected reunion of a brother and sister after he shows up at his family's door.

'The Anarchist'
Through Feb. 17,
John Golden Theatre,
252 W. 45th St.
From $59, 212-239-6200
ppc.broadway.com
The latest work from David Mamet is a two-character show — starring Patti LuPone and Debra Winger — that centers on a prisoner with a strange past.

The Art of 'Rise of the Guardians'
Through March 3
Museum of the Moving Image,
36-01 35th Ave.
$12, 718-777-6888
www.movingimage.us
Check out the original artwork from the new DreamWorks animated flick, based on the "Guardians of Childhood" novels by William Joyce. The exhibit is a behind-the-scenes look at the process of making the film and includes video presentations, authentic digital and hand-drawn artwork, as well as a sneak peek of the DreamWorks Animation studio.

NEILSON BARNARD



Cyndi Lauper and Friends: Home for the Holidays with Sarah McLachlan, Adam Lambert & more
Saturday, 8 p.m.
Beacon Theatre
2124 Broadway at 74th St.
From $75, 212-465-6500
www.beacontheatre.com
Cyndi Lauper will host her second annual "Home for the Holidays" concert to build awareness about gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender homelessness. This year, she's raising funds for Forty to None Project, which helps homeless youth and their living conditions.

Tokyo 1955-1970: A New Avant-Garde
Through Feb. 25, various times
The MoMA,
11 W. 53rd St.
$25, 212-708-9400
Explore Japan's transformation during the '50s and '60s, when the city became renowned for its culture, art and commerce in the aftermath of World War II. The exhibit features multimedia works including paintings, photographs, drawings and films.

Trombone Shorty & New Orleans Avenue with Black Joe Lewis & The Honeybears
Saturday, 8 p.m.
Terminal 5,
610 W. 56th St.
212-582-6600
www.terminal5nyc.com
Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews and his backing band, New Orleans Avenue — who are Grammy-winning New Orleans musicians — bring their "Supafunk" sound to New York City. Friends Black Joe Lewis & The Honeybears lend a helping hand.

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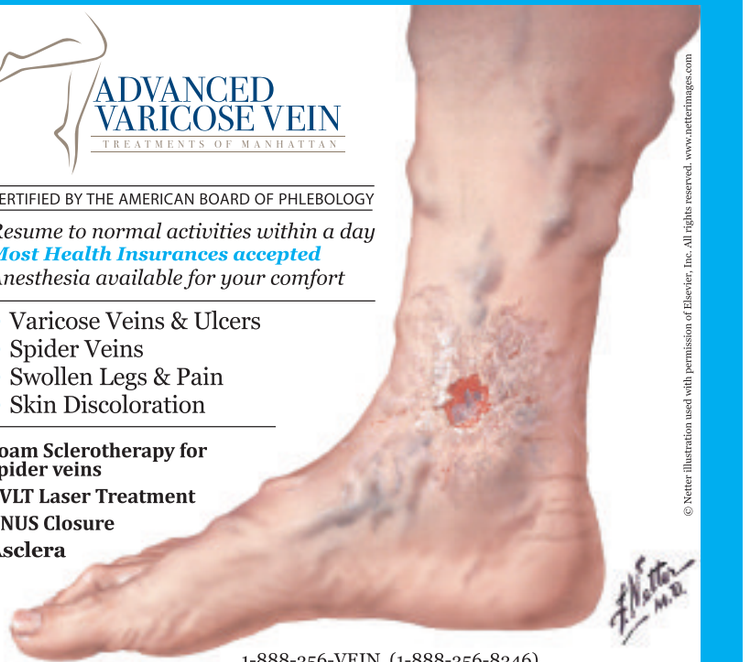
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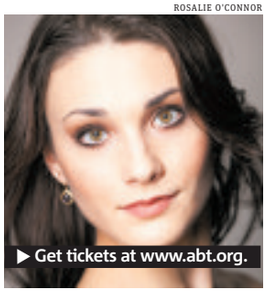
Get to know: Sarah Lane

Dancing as Clara in this year's "The Nutcracker" with the American Ballet Theater, 28-year-old Sarah Lane has come a long way since she first donned a tutu at age 4. You may have already seen her en pointe as Natalie Portman's double in 2010's Oscar-winning film "Black Swan." But we thought you might want to learn more, so we asked her a few questions we ask all rising NYC stars we think you should know better.

GENE SCHIAVONE

▶ Lane plays Clara on Dec. 14 and 16 at BAM.

ROSALIE O'CONNOR



▶ Get tickets at www.abt.org.

What's the best advice you use?
"The right thing to do is usually the hardest thing to do." I guess that's a good motto to live by. Sometimes when things get really hard, you just have to keep pushing through it — and never be lazy and never give up.

What's your favorite dish to cook for yourself when you're not in a rush?
Actually, I love steamed broccoli dipped in mayonnaise. I used to love artichoke growing up. I'm such a green freak; I love that sort of thing.

What's your prized possession?
My apartment — and my car.

What's your favorite song ever?
One summer we listened to that song "Airplanes" a lot; my husband and I would play that CD and lay out in the sun in Spain.

What's your favorite word?
I think "grace" is a good word to describe a lot of things — not just ballet, but I think as a person you have to have a lot of grace and give a lot of grace.

What was your best date?
My best date was probably the first date that I went on with my husband. He pretended like he just happened to be on the same subway platform I was on, but he was actually waiting there for me. And we went to see a movie.

Now that you've been interviewed a bunch, who would you want to interview?
Outside of the field of ballet, I love Rafael Nadal, the tennis player. It would be cool to sit down with him and see how he gets over the pressure that the media puts on him.

Ballerina binge

If you had to pick one fast-food chain to eat at for the rest of your life, which one would it be?

Arby's. That's weird, that's random, but I've always liked their java milkshakes!

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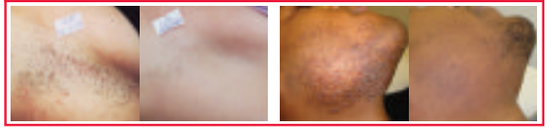

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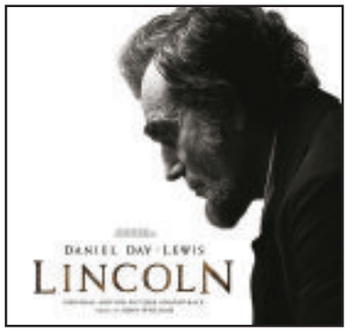

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The feed ...

Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Paris Jackson is rocking out to Queen, Samantha Ronson is keeping it real, Whitney Cummings is actually sending people to a Chick-fil-A and Mark Duplass is feeling pretty dumb.

@ParisJackson
that fantastic moment when Bohemian Rhapsody comes on the radio and you just blast it and rock out so hard you just forget all you problems

@samantharonson
If u start a tweet with- I'm not a hater, but- um- YOU'RE A HATER

@WhitneyCummings
Lizzy Caplan doesn't have Twitter, so go to her house to tell her she's awesome: 6750 Sunset Blvd., LA, CA 90028

@MarkDuplass
anybody know where i put my ability to spell words correctly? i swear, i just had it.

Samantha Ronson

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip **@dorothyatmetro** **dorothy.robinson@metro.us**

Sarah Jessica Parker and Naomi Watts open up about holidays with their kids

Hot. Shot

▶ Is it me or are you hankering for a black-and-white cookie right now?

STUART WILSON/GETTY IMAGES

Side-eye happenings at 'Les Mis'

Co-stars Anne Hathaway and Amanda Seyfried vamped it up on the red carpet at the "Les Miserables" world premiere on Wednesday in London.

Sarah Jessica Parker and **Naomi Watts** not only juggle A-list acting careers as well as their families, but they also somehow find the time to take advantage of New York City's many cultural opportunities (annoying, I know).

"We have incredible museums that are affordable and free; we have tons of wonderful ballet companies. I try to do all these things with my children. Simply walking up and down the streets of New York — there's art everywhere, there's things to talk about," Parker said Thursday night at the New 42 Gala, which honored the Australia Council for the Arts as well as supported the New Victory Education Program.

Naomi Watts — who was there with her children, **Sasha**, 5, and **Samuel**, 4, and partner **Liev Schreiber** — agrees. "We've done a few shows [with the kids]. It's a treat," she said.

But lest you think Parker and Watts are so perfect they only fill their children's heads with intellectual goodness, rest assured both women have fallen prey to holiday craziness.

"We're pretty conventional," said Parker about her holidays with her family, which includes husband, actor **Matthew Broderick**, son **James**, 10, and twin daughters **Marion** and **Tabitha**, 3. "We like to be together, we like to eat, we play Yankee Trader."

GETTY IMAGES

Watts and Parker on Wednesday night.

Meanwhile, it seems like the Schreiber/Watts household has fallen victim to the holiday terrorist that is Elf on the Shelf. (For those of you lucky enough not to know what he is, the Elf on the Shelf is a doll who allegedly spies on your kids at Christmastime and has to be moved night after night by the parents. It's great for about a hot minute.)

"I think they're getting into the whole Santa Claus thing now," Watts said about her little family. "They've got the Elf on the Shelf — and every night, he moves."

—With reporting by Olivia Morrow

Talking points

Swift and Styles are heating up

The fledgling romance between **Taylor Swift** and One Direction star **Harry Styles** appears to be heating up pretty quickly, if they're latest rendezvous are any indication. Styles was spotted trying to sneak into the New York City hotel where Swift is staying, an overnight bag over his shoulder, according to Hollyscoop. That's the second night in a row the young music stars have spent together at the hotel this week.

DeVito keeps us guessing with Perlman split

Despite announcing in October that they'd separated, **Danny DeVito** and **Rhea Perlman** aren't actually all that separated — at least according to DeVito. When asked by Extra how he's adjusting to life as a single man, DeVito says, "It's not something you adjust to. Rhea and I are really close. Actually still together, just separate, but together." In fact, DeVito insists divorce may not be in the cards for the "Cheers" alums. "We're working on it," he says when asked if a reconciliation might be on the way.

'Devastating' divorce for Lopez

Enough time has apparently passed for **Jennifer Lopez** to open up about the demise of her marriage to **Marc Anthony**. "I was going through a divorce and the breakup of a family, which was devastating to me because family means everything to me," Lopez tells Hollywood Life of the breakup in July 2011. "I didn't want to be the woman who stayed in bed for two months. I did do that a little, but I knew I had to get through it."

Is Midddleton's due date in July?

It's going to be a summer baby for **Kate Middleton**, according to Life & Style. "She's due in July, which is a month full of significance for **William**," a source says. "His mother, **Diana**, was born on July 1, and his parents got married on July 29." As for who the godparents will be for the new prince or princess? Signs are pointing to **Prince Harry** and **Pippa Middleton**, according to ABC News. "Kate is very close to her sister, Pippa, and William is infinitely, in the same way, close to Prince Harry. So they are the obvious choice," royal contributor **Victoria Arbiter Brown** says. "They were the best man and the chief bridesmaid at their wedding, they're well-trusted, they're family."

Holiday window decorations from around the world

1

2

5

A shot of one window from Bloomingdale's 59th Street

1. Polar Bears love Louis Vuitton (they make a lot of money, apparently). This furry beast is the star of the holiday window at the Louis Vuitton department store in Paris.

2. French department store Printemps Haussmann partnered with The House of Dior in designing their Christmas window display which features 74 handcrafted dolls wearing iconic Dior outfits.

3. Did you know that Macy's was the first store to feature a holiday window in the early 1870s? Here is their 2012 holiday window at their Harold Square location.

4. The holiday window at Henri Bendel in New York City.

1: MIGUEL MEDINA/AFP; 2: DOMINIQUE CHARRIAU/WIREIMAGE; 3: JASON KEMPIN/GETTY IMAGE; 4: JAMIE MCCARTHY/GETTY IMAGES FOR HENRI BENDEL); 5: NEILSON BARNARD/GETTY IMAGES FOR BLOOMINGDALE'S

3

4

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Letters

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No good deed goes unpublished

RE: "FAMILY OF MAN HIT BY Q TRAIN MULLS LEGAL ACTION AFTER PHOTO" (METRO, DEC. 6) Amazing how the story of the week is about the bystander effect and no one helping the poor fellow who was pushed onto the tracks. The sad tragedy aside, how about the fact that people saving those that have fallen on the tracks isn't newsworthy. I jumped onto the tracks and rescued a drunken fellow who had stumbled onto the Grand Street station Brooklyn-bound tracks at 4 a.m. on Nov. 11. I helped him to the token clerk booth and the clerk would not even open his door to give me water to wash the man's blood from my hands as he called transit police. I, being shocked at what I had just done, got on the next train and went home. The next day it hit me and I was curious as to what happened to the gentleman I pulled from the tracks. No news report, no public accolades. Putting my life in danger resulted only in a story that was captured on my Facebook page. So for all these stories of New Yorkers dropping the ball, there are probably hundreds of heroic acts that go unreported.
ALFRED-CYRILLE CAZEAU, VIA E-MAIL

After the fatal subway shoving incident, I wondered why the MTA doesn't have posters: "What to do if you fall on tracks." Surely, amidst all the Jameson Irish Whiskey ads, something so practical might be helpful or save a life. However, it seems the MTA avoids doing this because there are no one-size-fits-all tips for someone who has landed on tracks.
DENNIS FRANCIS, VIA E-MAIL

No one misses the 'toxic' male traits

RE: "I'M A BOY, I'M A BOY! BUT SOCIETY WON'T LET ME ACT LIKE IT" (METRO, DEC. 5) What does letter writer Rob Donner mean by "acting like the males they were"? Too often such phrases have described anti-social behavior such as starting fights, driving recklessly and treating females like underlings. I don't consider myself obligated to act out those toxic aspects of the masculine mystique, and avoiding them didn't stop me from being a leader of boys (a Scout leader).
ALAN RICHARD BROWN, VIA E-MAIL

Oh, so the problem is that modern males aren't aggressive enough? Try telling that to the victims of Jovan Belcher, Robert Bales, James Holmes, Jared Lee Loughner and thousands of other angry, violent meatheads.
RICHARD FEINBERG, VIA E-MAIL

Symbols matter, but the debt must fall

Raising the top marginal tax rate to 39.5 percent is symbolic. Taxable income is line 43 (1040). If a taxpayer has $388,350 on line 43, he or she can afford an extra 4.6 percent.

However, the extra is NOT going to reduce deficit or the debt. The tax rate debate is "small-ball" politics as usual, on both sides. Democrats are pushing the "fairness" line. Republicans are pushing the government-taking-your-money mantra.

Yes, symbols matter — but serious people believe reducing deficit and the debt mattered more.
LARRY D. FOWLER, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Because you have an abundance of energy waiting to be channeled, you'll be willing to help others accomplish their projects or assignments without the slightest hesitation.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** You'll be exceptionally effective working on jobs initiated by another that can be speedily accomplished. Conversely, time-consuming projects will prove difficult.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Don't spend your time on insignificant situations or projects; go after something that is meaningful because, whether you know it or not, you're holding the winning cards.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Having direct involvement with another and collectively working on a constructive project can bring you a lot of satisfaction. If you can't do anything with a pal, do something for him.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Don't ignore some wise advice just because it comes from someone you don't like. If you do, your ego will be the cause of numerous problems.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Watch what you say when in a social setting, because there's someone among the group who is looking to use your words against you in hopes of tripping you up.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Steer clear of someone who makes you feel extremely uncomfortable. There is a perfectly good underlying reason why your instincts are telling you to avoid this person.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Make sure the objectives you establish for yourself are within the scope of possibility. If you attempt something that's unrealistic, you could get yourself into big trouble.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Certain activities you find interesting may not be of equal attraction to your friends. If you attempt to add your picks to the agenda anyway, you'll lose your companions.

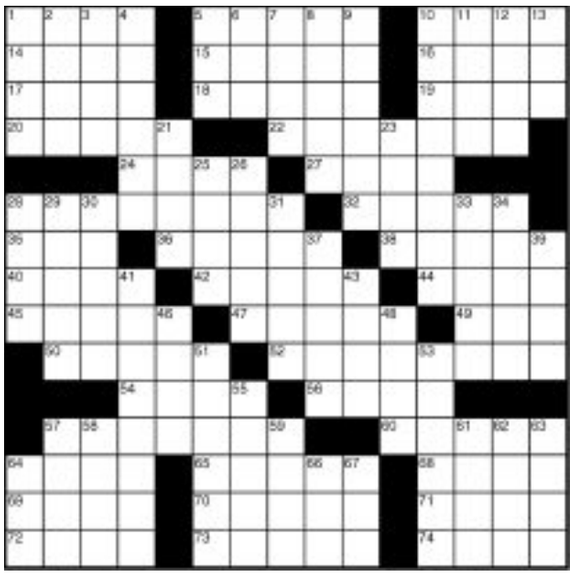
♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** You should do rather well when looking out for your interests, but the moment you try to manage things for others, you'll quickly lose steam.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** If there is something important that you hope to accomplish, go it alone. The participation of others could turn out to be more of a hindrance than help.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Today's aspects could be a bit wacky as far as you're concerned, inasmuch as you might benefit from what another initiates, but lose out on something that you set in motion.
BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Across
1 Deep-dish desserts
5 Crouch
10 Man-eating giant
14 Formerly, old-style
15 Workbench items
16 Fume
17 Ponytail site
18 Try for a job
19 Quitting time, for some
20 Salon tint
22 Drawer fresheners
24 Translucent gem
27 Avoid
28 Went downhill
32 Provide capital
35 Wool supplier
36 Trapshooting
38 Heredity factors
40 Isle of exile
42 Sheiks, usually
44 Actual
45 Bell tower sounds
47 Incline
49 Broad st.
50 Festoons
52 Got cozy
54 Hockey score
56 RR employee
57 Anklets, perhaps
60 Brazilian beat
64 Petty of "Free Willy"
65 Dorm climbers
68 Tiny bottle
69 D — — dog
70 Vice —
71 Peter Gunn's girl
72 Catch a fly ball
73 Fields
74 Lo-cal

Down
1 Phnom —, Cambodia
2 Latin hymn word
3 Sports channel
4 Office workers of yore
5 Depot (abbr.)
6 Go one better
7 Fumbler's word
8 Earthenware pots
9 Mind
10 Felon, e.g.
11 Perseverance
12 Steps on the gas
13 Riviera summer
21 Chest-beaters
23 Suspended
25 "Diana" singer
26 Lascivious looks
28 Ooze
29 Young screecher
30 Steel rod
31 Buys and sells
33 Ryan or Tatum
34 Make cloth
37 Steakhouse order (hyph.)
39 Husky's burden
41 Evening up
43 Like cotton candy
46 — Monster (Godzilla foe)
48 Poached items
51 Digestive fluid
53 Rock fragments
55 Pry bar
57 Nonsense
58 Libretto feature
59 Royal honorific
61 Calf-length
62 Worm, maybe
63 Ship's position
64 Vegas lead-in
66 NASA counterpart
67 Eur. airline



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	4	9				2		
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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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7	4			8	5		1	
		2	9				7	3
4	3				8	1		
	8		4	6			2	5
9		4		1		7		
					3	6		

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Solution to Thursday's crossword

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RONALD MARTINEZ/GETTY IMAGES

▶ The Giants host the Saints on Sunday at 4:25 p.m. on Fox.

Giants eager to face Saints on home turf

Head coach Tom Coughlin has been preaching for weeks to curb unforced errors.

The message appeared to sink in two weeks ago against the Packers, but Big Blue suffered a letdown on Monday night when they had their penalty total spike to nine, up five from their season average.

"It's an execution thing as well as the mind-set, [and] it's something that if you follow through on it, you can build upon that," said Coughlin. "But that hasn't happened in our last two games, when we lost the fourth quarter and didn't finish the games the way we'd like to finish them."

The Giants have been shellacked in recent matchups against the Saints, losing the previous three games in the series.

Thankfully for Big Blue, this time the battle shifts to MetLife Stadium, where the temperature will be in the mid-30s with a high chance of a wintry mix.

Such potential for inclement weather could certainly hinder the Saints' potent offense, as they're known for filling the air with footballs.

Coughlin, though, said he's not counting on weather as the determining factor because of the plethora of Saints' weapons.

"Hopefully, yes, it does [play a factor]," Coughlin said of the forecast. "But, I mean, you're not going to change any of the skill sets or anything of that nature. … [But] it will be nice to play them at our place, yes."

TONY WILLIAMS

Turnovers costing Sanchez, offense

▶ Ryan sticks with veteran, warns him to cut down on interceptions ▶ Message received, according to Jets QB

JIM MCISAAC/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Sanchez is fourth in the NFL in most interceptions per attempt, behind Matt Cassel, Philip Rivers and Jay Cutler.

A lot of things have gone wrong for the Jets this year, but what is killing them right now is something they can control. Starting quarterback Mark Sanchez has 13 interceptions through 12 games. He's on pace to throw more interceptions than touchdowns for the first time since his rookie season.

"He just needs to play quarterback, period. We have to protect the ball, regardless of who [is] the quarterback. We have to do a better job protecting the football, and that's obvious with some of the things that have happened to this football team," head coach Rex Ryan said. "Not just the quarterback, but all of us have to; that's the next step. I think we can be a really good football team, but we can't keep putting ourselves at risk by not protecting the football. I think it's clear how we want to play it."

The turnover issue is one the Jets thought Sanchez had moved on from, but it keeps rearing its head.

After throwing 12 touchdowns and 20 interceptions his rookie year, Sanchez reversed those fortunes his next two years, with 43 touchdowns and 31 interceptions combined.

"Of course, you see how fragile the game is and how close we were, even with those interceptions. It's my job to understand the kind of situation we're in [against Arizona]. Our defense was playing lights out," Sanchez said.

KRISTIAN DYER
sports@metro.us

ON TV SUNDAY

Jets at Jaguars
1 p.m., CBS

In the news

Lopez still out

The Nets will be without their man in the middle for the fourth straight game Friday night against the Warriors.

Lopez practiced on his sprained right foot Thursday, but only in individual drills.

"We're making some progress, but he's not ready to play in a game," head coach Avery Johnson told reporters.

He hasn't played since Nov. 28 against Boston. Brooklyn plays the Bucks on Sunday.

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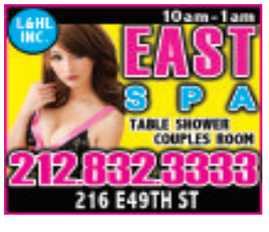

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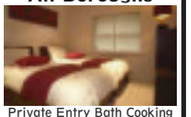
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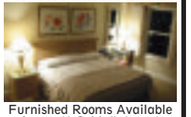
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Legal Notices

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF NOTSAM LLC. Art. Of Org. filed with Secy. Of State of NY (SSNY) on October 10, 2012. Office location: New York County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 122 East 42nd Street, Suite 1507, New York, NY 10168. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF THE RESEARCH ADVISOR LLC. Art. Of Org. filed with Secy. Of State of NY (SSNY) on October 10, 2012. Office location: New York County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 122 East 42nd Street, Suite 1507, New York, NY 10168. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, PURSUANT TO LAW, that the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, December 19, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. at 66 John Street, 11th floor, on a petition from Los Pollitos III, Inc. to continue to, to maintain, and operate an unenclosed sidewalk café at 499 Myrtle Avenue, in the Borough of Brooklyn for a term of two years.

REQUESTS FOR COPIES OF THE PROPOSED REVOCABLE CONSENT AGREEMENT MAY BE ADDRESSED TO: DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, ATTN: FOIL OFFICER, 42 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, NY 10004

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number Pending for Restaurant Wine & Beer has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Wine & Beer at retail in a restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at: 4523 Boston Post Road, Pelham, NY 10803 for on-premise consumption. Smash Partners Pelham Inc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number 1267519 for Beer & Wine has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Beer & Wine at retail in a restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at: 733 Knickerbocker Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11221, for on premise consumption. Bombay Kitchen Indian Restaurant Inc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, serial # 1267466, for Liquor, Wine & Beer has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Liquor, Wine & Beer at retail in a restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 860 Fulton St. Brooklyn, NY 11238. Kings County, for on premise consumption. Bellionfulton Corp.

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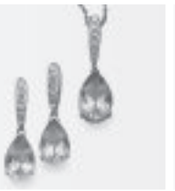

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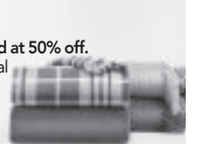

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